

CLASSROOMS FIRST INITIATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

General Meeting – July 30, 2015 2:30 P.M.

Location: 1700 W. Washington

2nd Floor Conference Room Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Members Present: Alicia Alvarez, Brian Capistran, Tim Carter (telephonic), Susan Chan

(telephonic), Janna Day, Superintendent Diane Douglas, Annie Gilbert, Kenneth Hicks, Beth Maloney, Greg Miller, Co-Chair Jim Swanson, and

Dawn Wallace

Members Absent: Governor Doug Ducey

Staff Present: Veronica Metz and Kristin Sorensen

Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions

Mr. Jim Swanson called the meeting to order at 2:32 P.M.

Mr. Swanson then called for an approval of the July 9, 2015 council meeting minutes as presented. Kenneth Hicks motioned for approval and Janna Day seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Presentation: High School Graduate Performance Data

Eileen Klein, President of the Arizona Board of Regents, presented council members with information regarding improving education outcomes by looking at student success beyond K-12. Ms. Klein covered the eligibility of Arizona's high-school graduates for admission into Arizona universities along with high-school performance data, which shows high-school enrollment is down, but academic preparedness is up. Ms. Klein also discussed college-going and completion rates. She stressed that statewide performance in relation to college-going rates is inconsistent and a specific factor cannot be isolated explaining college-going rates. Ms. Klein stressed that the education community must work together to increase student success and postsecondary preparation. Additionally, she urged council members to include indicators that look at preparedness of students for success beyond high school when creating a new funding structure. She emphasized that council members should align the funding formula and underlying tax structure so that we incentivize better outcomes for students and economic competitiveness for our state.

Update: Equitable Funding Structure Working Group

Kenneth Hicks, Chairman of the Equitable Funding Structure Working Group (EFS), gave an update

on the first meeting of EFS. Mr. Hicks stated that additional EFS members include Annie Gilbert, Jim Swanson, and Dawn Wallace, Education Policy Advisor to the Governor, who will be working with consultants from the Arizona Association of School Business Officials, the Goldwater Institute, and the Arizona Charter Schools Association. Mr. Hicks stated that during their first meeting, EFS received information from these consultants regarding the history behind school funding, along with a review of the current funding structure and current school funding sources. He stated that moving forward they need to address the inequities that are clear in the current funding formula. Mrs. Wallace added that the main reason for working groups to meet prior to the full council meeting is to identify areas of overlap between the three working groups. She emphasized that it was clear that there are components in the funding structure that can be condensed and simplified, and that those were themes in latter working group meetings as well. Mrs. Wallace stated that the next steps for EFS include: consultants presenting on specific inequities in the formula and outside of the formula, and for EFS members to begin formulating concrete ideas on how to address those inequities in a new funding structure.

Update: Incentives for Excellence Working Group

Greg Miller, Chairman of the Incentives for Excellence Working Group (IFE), gave an update on the group's first meeting. He stated that additional IFE members include Brian Capistran, Tim Carter, and Janna Day, who will be working with consultants from A for Arizona, the Education Finance Reform Group, and Jaime Molera with Greater Phoenix Leadership. Mr. Miller stated there were two main issues he took away from the information provided by the consultants, the first being how we look at incentives in the context of implementation. For instance, are funding incentives intended to be taken out of the existing funding, or will there be additional funding for incentives. The second issue Mr. Miller addressed was how incentives and rewards for excellence are going to be defined. Mr. Miller and the IFE have asked their consultants to bring five to ten possible incentive funding models to the next meeting.

Update: Student Centered Learning Priorities Working Group

Beth Maloney, Chairwoman of the Student Centered Learning Priorities Working Group (SCLP), gave an update on the group's first meeting. Ms. Maloney stated that additional SCLP members included Jim Swanson, Susan Chan, and Alicia Alvarez, who will be working with consultants from the Reason Foundation, the Arizona Chamber of Commerce, the Arizona Schools Boards Association, and the Foundation for Excellence in Education. Ms. Maloney stated that consultants had briefed SCLP on funding transparency in Arizona and how other states are handling transparency, how various funding models would affect Arizona's human capital, how state policy can affect principals, disparities within districts, and school level reporting. She informed the Council that although Arizona is rated as an F in spending, in terms of equity Arizona is rated a B+. Moving forward, SCLP is going to look at how funding models will affect teachers, how levers affect the current model, what future models can look like, and how implementation would work.

Next Meeting

Mr. Swanson advised that the Council will have its next meeting on August 13, 2015.

Adiourn

With no further business before the Council, Mr. Swanson adjourned the meeting at 3:33 P.M.